**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The present listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-82 (canceled).

Claim 83. (previously presented) A peptide conjugate comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide having the following sequence: $Lys_{4-10}$ units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X ; or a salt thereof,

wherein,

X is selected from the group consisting of AF 12505 (Ile-Glu-Gly-Pro-Thr-Leu-Arg-Gln-Trp-Leu-Ala-Ala-Arg-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 14), insulin-like growth factor I (57-70) (Ala-Leu-Leu-Glu-Thr-Tyr-Cys-Ala-Thr-Pro-Ala-Lys-Ser-Glu) (SEQ ID NO: 15), insulin-like growth factor I (30-41) (Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO: 16), insulin-like growth factor I (24-41)(Tyr-Phe-Asn-Lys-Pro-Thr-Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO: 17) , insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 18), insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Tyr-Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 19), insulin-like growth factor II (69-84) (Asp-Val-Ser-Thr-Pro-Pro-Thr-Val-Leu-Pro-Asp-Asn-Phe-Pro- Arg-Tyr) (SEQ ID NO: 20), growth hormone (GH)-releasing peptide-6 (GHRP-6) (His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH2) (SEQ ID NO: 21), beta-Interleukin I (163-171) (Val-Gln-Gly-Glu-Glu-Ser-Asn-Asp-Lys) (SEQ ID NO: 22), beta-Interleukin II (44-56) (Ile-Leu-Asn-Gly-Ile-Asn-Asn-Tyr-Lys-Asn-Pro-Lys-Leu) (SEQ ID NO: 23), Interleukin II (60-70) (Leu-Thr-Phe-Lys-Phe-Tyr-Met-Pro-Lys-Lys-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 24), exendin-4 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Gly-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-NH2) (SEQ ID NO: 25), exendin-3 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-

Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser) (SEQ ID NO: 26), epidermal growth factor (20-31) Cys(Acm)-Met-His-Ile-Glu-Ser-Leu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Thr-Cys(Acm) (SEQ ID NO: 27), bivalirudin (Hirulog) (D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Glu-Tyr-Leu) (SEQ ID NO: 28), hirulog-1 D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Tyr-Leu (SEQ ID NO: 29), C-type natriuretic peptide (1-53) (CNP) (Asp-Leu-Arg-Val-Asp-Thr-Lys-Ser-Arg-Ala-Ala-Trp-Ala-Arg-Leu-Leu-Gln-Glu-His-Pro-Asn-Ala-Arg-Lys-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Ala-Asn-Lys-Lys-Gly-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Leu-Lys-Leu-Asp-Arg-Ile-Gly-Ser-Met-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys; Disulfide bridge: Cys37-Cys53) (SEQ ID NO: 30), "Mini ANP" (Met-Cys-His-cyclohexylAla-Gly-Gly-Arg-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Cys-Tyr-Arg, disulfide bridge cys2-cys13) (SEQ ID NO: 31), Melanotan-II (MT-II, alpha-MSH4-10-NH2, or Ac-Nle4-Asp5-His6-D-Phe7-Arg8-Trp9-Lys10) (SEQ ID NO: 32), thymosin alpha1 (TA1) (Ac-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ala-Val-Asp-Thr-Ser-Ser-Glu-Ile-Thr-Thr-Lys-Asp-Leu-Lys-Glu-Lys-Lys-Glu-Val-Val-Glu-Glu-Ala-Glu-Asn) (SEQ ID NO: 33), Cys-Phe-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Orn-Gly-NH2, Disulfide bridge: Cys1-Cys6) (SEQ ID NO: 34), octreotide (201-995) (DPhe-Cys-Phe-DTrp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-ol; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 35), calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) (Ala-Cys-Asp-Thr-Ala-Thr-Cys-Val-Thr-His-Arg-Leu-Ala-Gly-Leu-Leu-Ser-Arg-Ser-Gly-Gly-Val-Val-Lys-Asn-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Thr-Asn-Val-Gly-Ser-Lys-Ala-Phe-$NH_2$; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 36), endomorphin-1 Tyr-Pro-Trp-Phe-NH2 (SEQ ID NO: 37); endomorphin-2 Tyr-Pro-Phe-Phe-$NH_2$ (SEQ ID NO: 38), nociceptin (also known as Orphanin FQ, Phe-Gly-Gly-Phe-Thr-Gly-Ala-Arg-Lys-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Ala-Asn-Gln) (SEQ ID NO: 39), angiotensinogen (1-13) (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His) (SEQ ID NO: 40), adrenomodullin (1-12) (Tyr-Arg-Gln-Ser-Met-Asn-Asn-Phe-Gln-Gly-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 41), antiarrhytmic peptide (AAP) (Gly-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Ala-Gly) (SEQ ID NO: 42), Antagonist G (Arg-DTrp-(nMe)Phe-DTrp-Leu-Met-$NH_2$), indolicidin (Ile-Leu-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Arg-Arg-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 43), osteocalcin (37-49) (Gly-Phe-Gln-Glu-Ala-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Phe-Tyr-Gly-Pro-Val) (SEQ ID NO: 44), cortistatin 29 (1-13) (Glp)-Glu-Arg-Pro-Pro-Leu-Gln-Gln-Pro-Pro-His-Arg-Asp) (SEQ ID NO: 45), cortistatin 14 Pro-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Ser-Ser-Cys-Lys; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys13 (SEQ ID NO: 46), PD-145065 (Ac-D-Bhg-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 47), PD-142893

(Ac-D-Dip-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 48), fibrinogen binding inhibitor peptide (His-His-Leu-Gly-Gly-Ala-Lys-Gln-Ala-Gly-Asp-Val) (SEQ ID NO: 49), leptin (93-105) (Asn-Val-Ile-Gln-Ile-Ser-Asn-Asp-Leu-Glu-Asn-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 50), GR 83074 (Boc-Arg-Ala-DTrp-Phe-DPro-Pro-Nle-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 51) Tyr-W-MIF-1 (Tyr-Pro-Trp-Gly-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 52), parathyroid hormone related peptide (107-111) (Thr-Arg-Ser-Ala-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 53), angiotensinogen (1-14) Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 54), Leu-enkephalin-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 98) and Leupeptin (Ac-Leu-Leu-Arg-CHO).

Claims 84-86 (Canceled)

Claim 87. (previously presented) A peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein Z is Lys4 (SEQ ID NO: 55), Lys5 (SEQ ID NO: 56) or Lys6 (SEQ ID NO: 62).

Claim 88. (previously presented) A peptide conjugate according to claim 87, wherein Z is $Lys_6$ (SEQ ID NO: 62).

Claim 89. (Canceled)

Claim 90. (previously presented) A peptide conjugate represented by one of the following formulae:

H-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ala-Ile-Phe-Thr-Asn-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Lys-Val-Leu-Gly-Gln-Leu-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Leu-Gln-Asp-Ile-Met-Ser Arg-Gln-Gln-Gly-Glu-Ser-Asn-Gln-Glu-Arg-Gly-Ala-Arg-Ala-Arg-Leu-$Lys_6$-$NH_2$ (GHRH(1-44)(Human)-$Lys_6$-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 88);

H-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ala-Ile-Phe-Thr-Asn-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Lys-Val-Leu-Gly-Gln-Leu-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Leu-Gln-Asp-Ile-Met-Ser Arg-Gln-Gln-Gly-Glu-Ser-Asn-Gln-Glu-Arg-Gly-Ala-Arg-Ala-Arg-Leu-$Glu_6$-$NH_2$ (GHRH (1-44)(Human)-$Glu_6$-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 89);

H-Ser-Val-Ser-Glu-Ile-Gln-Leu-Met-His-Asn-Leu-Gly-Lys-His-Leu-Asn-Ser-Met-Glu-Arg-Val-Glu-Trp-Leu-Arg-Lys-Lys-Leu-Gln-Asp-Val-His-Asn-Phe-$Lys_6$-OH (PTH(1-34)(Human)-$Lys_6$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 91);

H-His-Ala-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Val-Ser-Ser-Tyr-Leu-Glu-Gly-Gln-Ala-Ala-Lys-Glu-Phe-Ile-Ala-Trp-Leu-Val-Lys-Gly-Arg-$Lys_6$-OH (GLP-1-(7-36)(Human)-$Lys_6$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 92);

H-Gly-Gly-Thr-Tyr-Ser-Cys(Acm)-His-Phe-Gly-Pro-Leu-Thr-Trp-Val-Cys(Acm)-Lys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Gly-$Lys_6$-OH (EMP-1-$Lys_6$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 93) ;

H-Aib-His-2-D-Nal-D-Phe-Lys-$(Lys)_6$-$NH_2$ (GHRP-$(Lys)_6$-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 96);
H-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Lys-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH (Leu-enkephalin-Lys-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 97);

H-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH (Leu-enkephalin-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 98);

H-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH (Leu-enkephalin-$(Lys\text{-}Glu)_3$ (SEQ ID NO: 99);

H-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-$(Dpr)_6$-OH (Leu-enkephalin-$(Dpr)_6$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 100);

H-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu- $Lys_6$-OH (H-Leu-enkephalin-$Lys_6$) (SEQ ID NO: 11);

Glu-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Gly-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-$(Lys)_6$-OH (GnRH-$Lys_6$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 103);

Glu-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Gly-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-$(Lys\text{-}Glu)_3$-OH (GnRH-$(Lys\text{-}Glu)_3$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 104); and

H-Ser-Val-Ser-Glu-Ile-Gln-Leu-Met-His-Asn-Leu-Gly-Lys-His-Leu-Asn-Ser-Met-Glu-Arg-Val-Glu-Trp-Leu-Arg-Lys-Lys-Leu-Gln-Asp-Val-His-Asn-Phe-$(Lys\text{-}Glu)_3$-OH (PTH 1-34 human-$(Lys\text{-}Glu)_3$-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 105).

Claims 91-100. (Canceled)

Claim 101. (previously presented) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein Z is $(Lys)_n$ in which n is an integer in the range from about 4 to 10.

Claim 102. (previously presented) The peptide conjugate of claim 101, wherein n is an integer in the range from about 4 to 8 or about 4 to 6.

Claims 103-114. (Canceled).

Claim 115 (New) A peptide conjugate comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein Z is $Lys_p$-$Xaa_q$ or $Xaa_p$-$Lys_q$, wherein p and q are integers in the range from 1 to 14, with the proviso that p+q is in the range of 4-15, and each Xaa is Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Arg, His, Orn, 2,4-diaminobutanoic acid, 2,3-diaminopropanoic acid or Met; or a salt thereof,

wherein,

X is selected from the group consisting of AF 12505 (Ile-Glu-Gly-Pro-Thr-Leu-Arg-Gln-Trp-Leu-Ala-Ala-Arg-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 14), insulin-like growth factor I (57-70) (Ala-

Leu-Leu-Glu-Thr-Tyr-Cys-Ala-Thr-Pro-Ala-Lys-Ser-Glu) (SEQ ID NO: 15), insulin-like growth factor I (30-41) (Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO: 16), insulin-like growth factor I (24-41)(Tyr-Phe-Asn-Lys-Pro-Thr-Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO: 17) , insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 18), insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Tyr-Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 19), insulin-like growth factor II (69-84) (Asp-Val-Ser-Thr-Pro-Pro-Thr-Val-Leu-Pro-Asp-Asn-Phe-Pro- Arg-Tyr) (SEQ ID NO: 20), growth hormone (GH)-releasing peptide-6 (GHRP-6) (His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH2) (SEQ ID NO: 21), beta-Interleukin I (163-171) (Val-Gln-Gly-Glu-Glu-Ser-Asn-Asp-Lys) (SEQ ID NO: 22), beta-Interleukin II (44-56) (Ile-Leu-Asn-Gly-Ile-Asn-Asn-Tyr-Lys-Asn-Pro-Lys-Leu) (SEQ ID NO: 23), Interleukin II (60-70) (Leu-Thr-Phe-Lys-Phe-Tyr-Met-Pro-Lys-Lys-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 24), exendin-4 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Gly-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-NH2) (SEQ ID NO: 25), exendin-3 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser) (SEQ ID NO: 26), epidermal growth factor (20-31) Cys(Acm)-Met-His-Ile-Glu-Ser-Leu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Thr-Cys(Acm) (SEQ ID NO: 27), bivalirudin (Hirulog) (D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Glu-Tyr-Leu) (SEQ ID NO: 28), hirulog-1 D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Tyr-Leu (SEQ ID NO: 29), C-type natriuretic peptide (1-53) (CNP) (Asp-Leu-Arg-Val-Asp-Thr-Lys-Ser-Arg-Ala-Ala-Trp-Ala-Arg-Leu-Leu-Gln-Glu-His-Pro-Asn-Ala-Arg-Lys-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Ala-Asn-Lys-Lys-Gly-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Leu-Lys-Leu-Asp-Arg-Ile-Gly-Ser-Met-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys; Disulfide bridge: Cys37-Cys53) (SEQ ID NO: 30), "Mini ANP" (Met-Cys-His-cyclohexylAla-Gly-Gly-Arg-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Cys-Tyr-Arg, disulfide bridge cys2-cys13) (SEQ ID NO: 31), Melanotan-II (MT-II, alpha-MSH4-10-NH2, or Ac-Nle4-Asp5-His6-D-Phe7-Arg8-Trp9-Lys10) (SEQ ID NO: 32), thymosin alpha1 (TA1) (Ac-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ala-Val-Asp-Thr-Ser-Ser-Glu-Ile-Thr-Thr-Lys-Asp-Leu-Lys-Glu-Lys-Lys-Glu-Val-Val-Glu-Glu-Ala-Glu-Asn) (SEQ ID NO: 33), Cys-Phe-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Orn-Gly-NH2, Disulfide bridge: Cys1-Cys6) (SEQ ID NO: 34), octreotide (201-995) (DPhe-Cys-Phe-DTrp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-ol; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 35), calcitonin gene-related

peptide (CGRP) (Ala-Cys-Asp-Thr-Ala-Thr-Cys-Val-Thr-His-Arg-Leu-Ala-Gly-Leu-Leu-Ser-Arg-Ser-Gly-Gly-Val-Val-Lys-Asn-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Thr-Asn-Val-Gly-Ser-Lys-Ala-Phe-$NH_2$; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 36), endomorphin-1 Tyr-Pro-Trp-Phe-NH2 (SEQ ID NO: 37); endomorphin-2 Tyr-Pro-Phe-Phe-$NH_2$ (SEQ ID NO: 38), nociceptin (also known as Orphanin FQ, Phe-Gly-Gly-Phe-Thr-Gly-Ala-Arg-Lys-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Ala-Asn-Gln) (SEQ ID NO: 39), angiotensinogen (1-13) (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His) (SEQ ID NO: 40), adrenomodullin (1-12) (Tyr-Arg-Gln-Ser-Met-Asn-Asn-Phe-Gln-Gly-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 41), antiarrhytmic peptide (AAP) (Gly-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Ala-Gly) (SEQ ID NO: 42), Antagonist G (Arg-DTrp-(nMe)Phe-DTrp-Leu-Met-$NH_2$), indolicidin (Ile-Leu-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Arg-Arg-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 43), osteocalcin (37-49) (Gly-Phe-Gln-Glu-Ala-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Phe-Tyr-Gly-Pro-Val) (SEQ ID NO: 44), cortistatin 29 (1-13) (Glp)-Glu-Arg-Pro-Pro-Leu-Gln-Gln-Pro-Pro-His-Arg-Asp) (SEQ ID NO: 45), cortistatin 14 Pro-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Ser-Ser-Cys-Lys; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys13 (SEQ ID NO: 46), PD-145065 (Ac-D-Bhg-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 47), PD-142893 (Ac-D-Dip-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 48), fibrinogen binding inhibitor peptide (His-His-Leu-Gly-Gly-Ala-Lys-Gln-Ala-Gly-Asp-Val) (SEQ ID NO: 49), leptin (93-105) (Asn-Val-Ile-Gln-Ile-Ser-Asn-Asp-Leu-Glu-Asn-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 50), GR 83074 (Boc-Arg-Ala-DTrp-Phe-DPro-Pro-Nle-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 51) Tyr-W-MIF-1 (Tyr-Pro-Trp-Gly-$NH_2$) (SEQ ID NO: 52), parathyroid hormone related peptide (107-111) (Thr-Arg-Ser-Ala-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 53), angiotensinogen (1-14) Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 54), Leupeptin (Ac-Leu-Leu-Arg-CHO), Leu-enkephalin-Lys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-OH) (SEQ ID NO: 98), H-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu- $Lys_6$-OH (SEQ ID NO: 11); or a modified or truncated analogue of X having at least about 5 and up to at most about 75 amino acids.

Claim 116. (New) A peptide conjugate according to claim 83 or 115, wherein Z consists of L-amino acids only.

Claim 117. (New) A method for the preparation of a peptide conjugate (X-Z) as defined in claim 83 or 115, comprising the steps of:

a) coupling an N-α-protected amino acid or N-α-protected dipeptide in the carboxyl activated form, in the C-terminal activated form to an immobilised peptide sequence H-Z-SSM, thereby forming an immobilised N-α-protected peptide fragment,

b) removing the N-α-protecting group, thereby forming an immobilised peptide fragment having an unprotected N-terminal end,

c) coupling an additional N-α-protected amino acid in the carboxyl activated form, or an additional N-α-protected dipeptide in the C-terminal activated form to the N-terminal end of the immobilised peptide fragment, and repeating the removal/coupling step procedure in step b) and c) until the desired peptide sequence X is obtained, and then

d) cleaving off the peptide conjugate from the solid support material.

Claim 118. (New) A method for producing the peptide conjugate of claim 83 or 115, comprising

a) introducing a nucleic acid sequence encoding said conjugate into a host cell;
b) culturing said host cell for a time and under conditions effective to produce said peptide conjugate, and isolating said conjugate from the culture.

Claim 119. (New) A method for producing the peptide conjugate of claim 83 or 115, comprising

a) culturing a recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding said conjugate under conditions permitting the production of said conjugate; and
b) isolating said conjugate from the culture.

Claim 120. (New) The method according to claim 118, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding said conjugate is contained within a nucleic acid construct or a vector.

Claim 121. (New) The method according to claim 119, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding said conjugate is contained within a nucleic acid construct or a vector.

Claim 122. (New) A composition comprising a peptide conjugate according to claim 83 or 115, and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

Claim 123. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 83 or 115, wherein Z consists of about 4 to about 7 amino acid units.

Claim 124. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 123, wherein Z consists of 6 amino acid units.

Claim 125. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 83 or 115, wherein Z comprises at least five Lys amino acid units.

Claim 126. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 125, wherein Z comprises six Lys amino acid units.

Claim 127. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 83 or 115, wherein Z is further defined by having a free acid, amide or ester group.

Claim 128. (New) A method of achieving binding between the conjugate of claim 83 or 115 and μ opioid receptors, the method comprising administering to the subject in need thereof the conjugate for a time and under conditions effective to achieve binding between said conjugate and μ opioid receptors.

Claim 129. (New) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a conjugate according to claim 83 or 115 in an amount effective to bind μ opioid receptors.

Claim 130. (New) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and a conjugate according to claim 83 or 115 in an amount effective to stimulate erythropoiesis.

Claim 131. (New) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and a conjuage according to claim 83 or 115 in an amount effective to induce retraction of osteoblasts.

Claim 132. (New) A peptide conjugate represented by the following sequence: Ac-Ser-Tyr-Ser-Met-Glu-His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly-Lys-Pro-Val-$(Lys)_6$-$NH_2$ (SEQ ID NO: 122) or a fragment thereof.

Claim 133. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 83 or 115, wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least 2.

Claim 134. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 133, wherein the ratio is at least about 5, 7, 9, or 10.